

Serial No. 10/521,666
Applicant: Bona et al.
Reply Dated: March 9, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: February 28, 2006
Attorney's Case No. 7-4219
Confirmation No.: 1206

Response to Office Action

The Office Action states claims are directed to patentably distinct species:

Species 1: Fig. 7;
Species 2: Figs. 8-9; 17-18
Species 3: Fig. 10;
Species 4: Fig. 11;
Species 5: Fig. 16;
Species 6: Fig. 19;
Species 7: Fig. 20;
Species 8: Fig. 21;
Species 9: Figs. 22-24;
Species 10: Figs. 25-27

and requires election of a single disclosed species. The examiner states that none of the claims are generic.

Traverse of Restriction Requirement

Applicant traverses the restriction requirement because the application claims are not directed to patentably distinct species.

The application discloses two embodiments of an electrical socket adaptor. The first embodiment adaptor 100 is shown in Figures 1-38, and the second embodiment adaptor is shown in Figures 39 and 40. The second embodiment adaptor is otherwise identical to adaptor 100 but includes an additional adapter unit 101; all the application figures include adaptor 100 itself or possible components of adaptor 100. Thus claims generic to adaptor 100 would also be generic to the second embodiment adaptor.

Different countries have electrical sockets that are standardized in different configurations, and are standardized to

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receive ground plugs and phase pins of differing shapes. For example, an electrical socket in the United States receives two spaced apart phase pins or blades of a standard size and spacing and optionally may receive a ground plug or ground blade of a standard size and having a standard spacing from the phase pins.

The electrical socket adaptor of the present invention permits selective configuration of a ground plug and pairs of phase pins to match different socket configurations of different countries. The adaptor stores a set of ground plugs and sets of phase pins, each ground plug or phase pin to match the socket of a given country. A user withdraws a ground plug and pair of phase pins from the adaptor to match a given socket configuration and the unused plugs and pins remain in the interior of the adaptor.

Figures 7-11 of the application illustrate different kinds of ground pins used in socket adaptor 100. Figures 16-21 illustrate different phase pins used in socket adaptor 100. Figures 22-27 illustrate the pin insertion tools of socket adaptor 100 that receive the ground pins and phase pins. Figures 22-24 illustrate pin tool 71 that receives the ground pins. Figures 25-27 illustrate pin tool 78 that receives the phase pins (socket 100 has a pair of pin tools 78, each associated with a respective set of phase pins).

Applicant traverses the restriction requirement because the identified species of the restriction requirement are not

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directed to different species of a claimed electrical socket adaptor, but rather are directed to different component parts (ground pins, phase pins, and pin holders) of a claimed electrical socket adaptor having an illustrated species 100.

Applicant submits the restriction requirement is improper and requests withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

Election

In view of the election requirement, applicant elects Species 1, Fig. 7. As all the claims 1-14 are directed to an electric socket adaptor and read on a single species (electric socket adaptor 100), all of the claims are generic.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully asserts that all the claims of the application are in condition for examination without restriction, and requests examination the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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